

REMARKS

Reconsideration and timely allowance of the pending claims, in view of the following remarks, are respectfully requested.

In the pending Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 4-7, and 9-11, under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as being anticipated by Araya '847 (U.S. Patent No. 4,094,515).

The Examiner also indicate that claims 2-3 and 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's assertions regarding the prior art rejections. However, in an effort to expedite the examination of this application, Applicants have amended claims 1, 3, and 6 and have cancelled claims 2 and 8 without prejudice or disclaimer. By these amendments, independent claim 1 now includes features previously recited by claim 2 which, as indicated by the Examiner, includes patentable subject matter. Similarly, independent claim 6 now includes features that were recited by claim 8. By so doing, independent claims 1 and 6 are clearly patentable over the applied reference and their corresponding dependent claims, claims 3-5 and claims 7, 9-11, respectively, are also patentable by virtue of dependency as well as for their additional recitations.

All matters having been addressed, Applicant respectfully requests the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration of this application, and the immediate allowance of pending claims 1, 3-7, and 9-11.

Applicant's Counsel remains ready to assist the Examiner in any way to facilitate and expedite the prosecution of this matter.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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